

October 13, 1988

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HWS*

RE: Goneaway Mine, Butt Mining, M/037/009, San Juan County, Utah

I met with Mr. Jim Butt at the Goneaway Mine site on October 12, 1988. The meeting was arranged to discuss the reclamation of the Goneaway Mine site. Mr. Butt had mined the site sometime in 1979 and 1980, after which time he abandoned it. The mine never was permitted or bonded. Mr. Butt is now willing to reclaim the site in exchange for the Division's allowing his company to assume ownership of the Sage Mine. The Sage Mine is currently owned and operated by Atlas Minerals.

Mr. Butt and I discussed, on site, the requirements for reclaiming the Goneaway. The Division will be requiring the basics at this site, regarding reclamation. I've asked Mr. Butt to close up all the exposed portals or tunnels, to regrade the site, to then rip it, and finally seed it.

The disturbance at the site is composed mainly of a large open pit. The mine site, at one time, was an underground mine with one or two portals exposed. Butt Mining went in and took the top off the mine, exposing the mine corridors and creating a pit. The pit is approximately 300 feet long by about 100 feet wide and 40 feet deep, at it's longest point. The pit floor is composed of a very acidic material, there are no plants growing in it. A portion of the pit floor is composed of low grade uranium ore. Few plants, if any are growing in this material. I've asked Mr. Butt, as part of the reclamation procedure, to cover this poor material with material from above the pit that is now located on the road and just above pit highwall. He'll be able to push this better material down with a bulldozer. The material that was removed from the top of the mine is now stacked in a waste pile to the southeast of the pit, some 200 feet away. This waste pile will be regraded, ripped and seeded.

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Because of the lack of soil material, and the harsh ore and overburden material that now composes the growing medium on the site, revegetation will be difficult. I've told Mr. Butt that I will put together a seed mixture for him to use at the site, which will be composed of several hardy species. Plants growing at the site now are predominately desert buckwheats, indian ricegrass, rabbitbrush, saltbush. The seed will be broadcast on the site without the aid of fertilizer, or mulch, or topsoil material of any kind.

After reclamation, the area will be regraded and contoured. Maximum slopes, I have asked Mr. Butt to leave at no more than two to one. The highwalls, at the site, should be eliminated. The pit itself will be left for the most part; however, the highwalls in the pit will be graded to two to one. The pit will be allowed to freely drain out, the drainage opening will be located at the western side of the pit.

Mr. Butt was concerned about access roads to the mine itself and access going through the mine to other claims in the vicinity of the Goneaway. I explained to Mr. Butt that until I notified him otherwise, the roads should be left unreclaimed so that other claim holders in the area would still be able to access their sites. The main access road, from the Bicentennial Highway will be reclaimed according to the Atlas Happy Jack permit. This road also access' the Goneaway. Mr. Butt indicated that he would like to leave this road open and, if necessary, he would assume responsibility for reclaiming it. We later talked to Carl Dixon of Atlas, who indicated that Atlas may have been wrong to commit to reclaiming that because it was probably a county road and would not have to be reclaimed.

Mr. Butt indicated to me that the reclamation would begin at the Goneaway the last week of October and should be complete by the first week of November. I explained to him that the Division would wait until the Goneaway had been reclaimed before proceeding with the transfer of the Atlas Minerals Sage Mine site to Butt Mining.

jb
cc: Lowell Braxton
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